



## COUNCIL MINUTES

May 19, 2008

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 19, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

### COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker  
Kyle Jones  
Tom Rawles  
Scott Somers  
Darrell Truitt  
Claudia Walters  
Mike Whalen

### COUNCIL ABSENT

None

### OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady  
Debbie Spinner  
Linda Crocker

1. Review items on the agenda for the May 19, 2008 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest declared: 4a and 4b (Hawker), (Whalen); 9s (Hawker); 9t (Hawker); 11h (Whalen); 12i (Truitt); 12k (Hawker), (Rawles)

2. Discuss and take action on the FY 08/09 Annual Audit Plan as recommended by the Audit and Finance Committee. (Approval. Vote 3-0).

Vice Mayor Walters, as Chairman of the Audit & Finance Committee, explained that although the proposed FY 2008/09 Annual Audit Plan is recommended for approval by the Committee, she wanted to make it clear that the new Council would have the authority to change the document if they so chose. She stated that when the new Audit & Finance Committee meets, the members would have the opportunity to offer their input regarding the document at that time.

City Auditor Gary Ray confirmed that Vice Mayor Walters' comments were conveyed to him at the May 8, 2008 Audit & Finance Committee meeting when this item was presented.

It was moved by Councilmember Rawles, seconded by Councilmember Jones, that the tentative FY 2008/09 Annual Audit Plan be adopted, with the understanding that the new Council would have the authority to make modifications to the document, if necessary.

Carried unanimously.

3. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on fee modifications for liquor licenses as recommended by the Audit and Finance Committee. (Approval. Vote: 2-1, Rawles nay).

Vice Mayor Walters advised that at the June 2, 2008 Regular Council meeting, the above-listed fees and charges would be presented to the new Council for approval. She offered a brief overview of the “philosophical differences” expressed by herself and Councilmember Rawles at recent Audit & Finance Committee meetings concerning this item. Vice Mayor Walters explained that it is the opinion of Councilmember Rawles that the fees the City imposes for the issuance of a liquor license should reflect the actual cost of the license and if not, the fee should not be included. She stated that her rationale for the fees is that the City incurs “public safety costs” in terms of the General Fund associated with having liquor uses in the community. Vice Mayor Walters acknowledged that such costs cannot be quantified, but said that she is certain the proposed fees do not begin to “cover the additional public safety costs.”

Vice Mayor Walters further spoke regarding what transpired at the May 8<sup>th</sup> Audit & Finance Committee meeting, including staff being directed to conduct an analysis of various Liquor Licensing fee modifications suggested by the Committee. (See the May 8, 2008 Audit & Finance Committee minutes for a detailed account of the proceedings.)

Councilmember Rawles expressed a series of comments and concerns regarding this item. His statements included, but were not limited to, the following: that the City should not impose an annual renewal fee because it has no regulatory authority and the City provides no function or service other than imposing/collecting the fee; that in his opinion, the fee is simply a “money grab” by the government; that if the proposed fees are approved, existing businesses would experience a substantial increase in their renewal fees; that it is inappropriate to increase the fees at this time with the current downturn in the economy; and that staff proposed \$800 fee increases for License Series #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #8 and #13, which were never presented to the Audit & Finance Committee for discussion and consideration.

Vice Mayor Walters concurred with a number of Councilmember Rawles’ comments and stated that in further review of the fee modifications proposed by the Committee, she is prepared to make a different recommendation.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Walters, seconded by Councilmember Rawles, that the City of Mesa’s current initial Liquor Licensing fees and renewal fees remain at their current levels and that the minutes of the previous Audit & Finance Committee meetings in which this issue was discussed be provided to the new Audit & Finance Committee so that the members have a better understanding of the matter.

Carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and provide direction on the Recycle for Reading Campaign as recommended by the Audit and Finance Committee. (Approval. Vote: 3-0).

Vice Mayor Walters explained that this program is designed to educate citizens relative to the importance of recycling. She also commented that it is important to understand that revenues would not be allocated to purchase additional reading materials for the libraries unless recycling tonnage in FY 2008/09 is higher than it was the previous fiscal year.

It was moved by Councilmember Rawles, seconded by Vice Mayor Walters, to direct staff to implement the Recycle for Reading Campaign.

Carried unanimously.

5. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

Vice Mayor Walters:	National League of Cities' Community and Economic Development Steering Committee meeting
Councilmember Somers:	ASU Decision Theater presentation regarding the Southeast Mesa Strategic Plan
Councilmember Jones:	Habitat for Humanity home dedication
Mayor Hawker:	Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Executive Committee meeting

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, May 22, 2008, 8:00 a.m. – Joint Meeting with the Planning & Zoning Board at ASU Decision Theater to view a presentation relative to the Southeast Mesa Strategic Plan

Thursday, May 29, 2008, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, May 29, 2008, 4:00 p.m. – Mayor and City Council Farewell Event

Councilmember Rawles advised that he would be unable to attend the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting at the ASU Decision Theater.

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

a. Hear from Gilbert Rodriguez regarding bonds and local government.

Gilbert Rodriguez, a Mesa resident, expressed various concerns regarding the November 2008 Special Bond Election. He questioned whether, with the current downturn in the economy, it is an appropriate time for the City to seek voter approval of the bond package, which includes funding for a number of public safety programs.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

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KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

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